



Department of Health and Human Services/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Global AIDS Program (GAP)

Under the direction of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator's Office, the HHS/CDC Global AIDS Program (GAP) is a proud partner in the unified U.S. Government effort to implement the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. GAP helps resource-constrained countries prevent HIV infection; improve treatment, care, and support for people living with HIV; and build capacity and infrastructure to address the global HIV/AIDS pandemic.

About Our Work: Laboratory Capacity Building



Building laboratory capacity is a key component of the Global AIDS Program (GAP). GAP's laboratory assistance includes:

- ♦ **point-of-service diagnostic support;**
- ♦ **training for quality assurance;**
- ♦ **assistance obtaining equipment, reagents, and other critical supplies.**

Many laboratories in developing countries find it difficult to build and maintain the capacity required for effective diagnosis, monitoring, and surveillance of HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Even in established laboratories, obtaining and evaluating necessary supplies and implementing quality assurance activities, continue to be challenges.

Retaining skilled staff is also often a serious problem. In many cases the rate of laboratory personnel turnover requires constant training of new staff to rebuild the needed expertise.

To ensure quality laboratory support, laboratory assistance programs must address regional variation of HIV epidemics. TB is a major opportunistic infection among persons with AIDS, and laboratory support for TB management and prevention is essential. Evidence shows STIs may increase risk for HIV infection by as much as five-fold. Early detection and treatment of TB and STIs along with routine public health surveillance are vital components of a comprehensive HIV control and prevention program.

The U.S. Government (USG) through the Global AIDS Program (GAP) works with host countries to create individualized laboratory support plans to strengthen quality assurance, and assist laboratories to obtain necessary supplies and equipment.

In Guyana, with USG funding, GAP . . . provides technical assistance to improve quality assurance standards in laboratories.

In Haiti, with USG funding, GAP . . . works with laboratories to strengthen HIV and STI diagnostic capabilities and improve quality control procedures.

In Mozambique, with USG funding, GAP . . . helps implement accurate, reliable, low cost, and easy-to-use procedures for rapid testing in the voluntary counseling and testing settings.

Last Updated January 2005

HHS/CDC GAP: A proud partner in the unified U.S Government effort to implement the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

